

DISTRICT UPDATE



State Senator
Bruce Patterson
P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing, MI 48909-7536

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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ON THE WAY

Maybe you’ve seen the commercials running since the Super Bowl on alternative fuels, particularly those from corn and soybeans. Under the leadership of Sen. Patterson, the Senate Technology and Energy Committee has passed legislation to increase the use of alternative fuels in Michigan.

One bill would increase the supply of E85, an 85 percent blend of ethanol, for Michigan business and industry. Other legislation in the package focuses on B5, a 5 percent blend of biodiesel. Senator Patterson’s bill, Senate Bill 1078, provides incentives for the further development of similar technologies to create jobs and protect our environment.

✂ Clip & Return

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

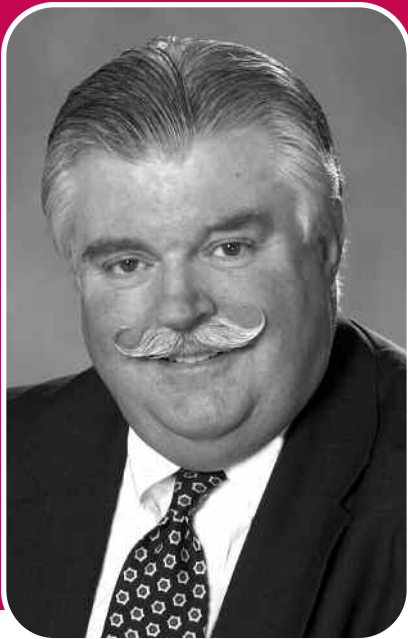
Please take the time to answer the following questions...

Should the state of Michigan give tax cuts and financial incentives to new start-up companies that locate in Michigan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you think the state should put a moratorium on any new government mandates on job providers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Would you support raising Michigan’s sales tax in order to increase K-12 school funding?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you favor creating a new tax credit for long-term health care savings accounts?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Thank you for your response.
Be sure to visit www.senate.mi.gov/patterson
for more survey questions.

Please complete and return this card to:
Senator Bruce Patterson
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Please add me to Senator Patterson’s regular e-mail update list.
E-mail: _____



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Dear Friends:

As your State Senator, I am both privileged and honored to represent you, your family and the nearly 300,000 constituents of the 7th Senate District in the Michigan State Senate. Serving your needs in the Michigan Legislature is very important to me.

The information contained in this Legislative Update newsletter will give you some additional insight and information about what has been happening in Lansing.

As your advocate for good government in the Senate, I will continue to work to:

- ensure that a quality employment environment exists in our great state; and
- enhance educational opportunities and outcomes in education; and
- preserve our environment and our outdoor heritage for future generations!

I am always looking to improve the means of communication to and from my constituents - you the people for whom I work. Your input and perspective permit me to more fully represent our community. Your opinions and concerns motivate my actions.

Please continue to send me letters and e-mails with your thoughts and ideas. Or feel free to call my office toll-free at 866-262-7307 on issues of personal importance, to ask for specific state publications, or to schedule a ‘day in Lansing’ to visit the Capitol. Also, let us know if you would like to receive my free e-mail newsletter “In The Loop.”

Again, thank you for extending to me the honor of serving you and yours in the Michigan State Senate. When all is said and done: “I work for you!”

Sincerely,

State Senator
7th District

21ST CENTURY JOBS FUND

The Legislature has been cutting taxes and reducing red tape to help get Michigan working again by improving the state's business climate. The Legislature also worked to create the 21st Century Jobs Fund.

The Fund will aid in the development of the life sciences, and other competitive and cutting edge technologies. These areas are where the jobs of tomorrow will be and the legislation will help put Michigan at the forefront for these new jobs. To learn more, visit www.michigan.org/medc/ttc.

SENATOR PATTERSON WORKS TO PROTECT MICHIGAN'S WATERS

Michigan families have enjoyed the beauty and bounty of our state's

waters for generations. Senate legislation recently passed into law helps make sure future generations will continue to enjoy all of our Great Lakes.

Public Acts 33-37 of 2006 create new standards for water withdrawals and permit programs for large water users such as water bottling operations. These new regulations will help those who use Michigan's waters do so in a way that is both environmentally friendly and economically sound. Among other provisions, the legislation also strengthens the current rules on water diversion by requiring legislative oversight.

"Water is Michigan's most important natural resource," Sen. Patterson noted. "The new laws conserve and safeguard our Great Lakes now and for succeeding generations." Senator Patterson was a key sponsor of the legislative package.



BILLS TO PROTECT MONUMENTS PASSES SENATE

Two bills sponsored by Sen. Patterson to set necessary safeguards for memorials on state land have passed the Senate. Senate Bill 881 would establish a Veterans' Memorial Property Commission and Senate Bill 882 would protect military monuments on state land. The bills have been sent to the House for consideration.



"Let it not be said of us that we ever forgot those who service, or the supreme sacrifice they made," Patterson said. "Were it not for their service, we would not be here today freely discussing and ordering our common life."

PATTERSON OFFERS PRIVACY OF PHONE RECORDS

Senator Patterson has introduced a bill to protect against leaks of cell phone records in response to several Internet sites claiming to provide this information for a fee. Senate Bill 1202 would prohibit the sale of cellular telephone records and help protect this personal information. The unauthorized use of such personal records can lead to fraud and identity theft.

Previously, Patterson has guided legislation to combat spyware and spam through the Senate and Technology Committee.

"The bill achieves a goal both the Legislature and the governor agree on – helping more Michigan students graduate from college – by expanding the incentives for parents to save for college in the MESP," Patterson noted.

EDUCATION STANDARDS SECURE BETTER JOB PROSPECTS

A new law provides the promise of a brighter future for Michigan students. Beginning with the class of 2011, high school graduates will have to meet certain criteria in order to graduate.

"We had intense discussion on these proposals in a series of public meetings I arranged in the 7th Senate district," Senator Patterson said. "Parents, students and teachers all made worthwhile contributions to the dialogue."

Senator Patterson worked to make sure vocational and technical education programs would not be harmed. In addition, certain subjects will be approached in a "hands-on" practical manner and can be spread over a longer time to ensure the vital content is mastered by all students.

New requirements include:

- Four credits of English
- Four math credits, including geometry, and Algebra I and II
- Three science credits
- Three social science credits
- Two foreign-language credits that can be completed in any grade
- One health and physical education credit
- One visual, performing or applied arts credit
- One course comprising an online learning experience
- Online course or Learning Experience



MORE MONEY FOR FAMILY COLLEGE FUNDS

Families could see more money for their college funds under a bill sponsored by Senator Patterson. Currently, families with two or more children headed off for college may find their tax-free advantage for college savings ends when their first child enters college. Senate Bill 1048 restores the tax incentive for everyone. This small change would make a big difference for many families.